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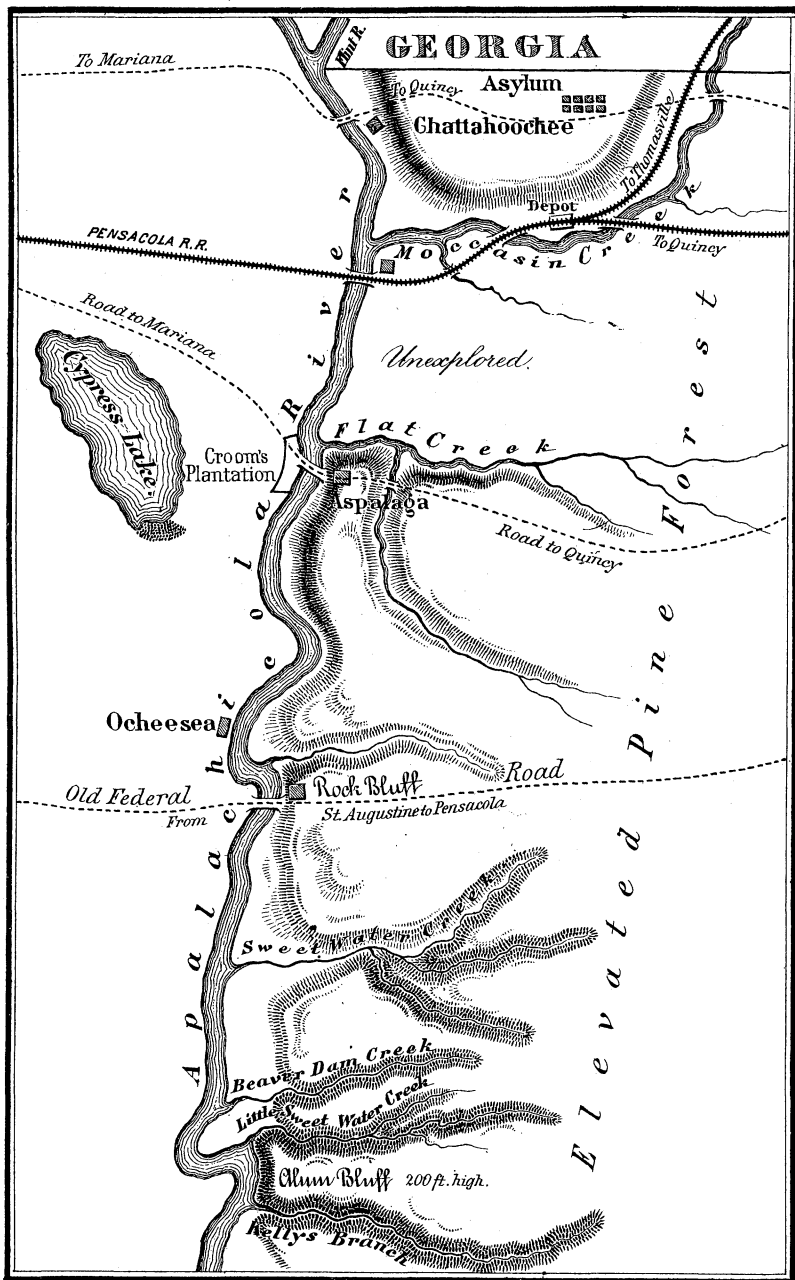
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Wm. B. Burford, Lith., Indianapolis.

CHART of the Country occupied by the Torreyia.

BOTANICAL GAZETTE.

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Torreya taxifolia, Arnott.

A REMINISCENCE.

BY A. W. CHAPMAN.

[Being the only survivor of the quaternary band engaged in the erection of the Torrey monument, I have thought that I might perform a service acceptable to the readers of the GAZETTE, by placing before them a record of the circumstances and events connected with it. The accompanying map will, I hope, serve to assist in forming a correct idea of its surroundings, and the appended list of plants, exhibiting a strange intermingling of low-country and mountain forms, will not be uninteresting to the botanist.]

Fifty years ago, on one of those calm, hazy October evenings, peculiar to the climate of Florida, the quiet of the pleasant town of Quincy was interrupted by the rapid approach of a carriage with attendant outriders, which, having made part of the circuit of the public square, drew up before my office, and a gentleman of middle age, spare habit, light hair, and blue eyes, came forth and introduced himself as Mr. Croom, of North Carolina.

This was the commencement of my brief intercourse with Hardy B. Croom, the discoverer of *Torreya*; for, as is well remembered, a year afterwards he was lost at sea, with all of his family, on the passage from New York to Charleston.

Of his personal traits it is needless here to say more than that he belonged to that class of wealthy and intelligent southern gentlemen, whose homes, renowned for their unostentatious hospitality, were the abode of all that is most charming in the refinements of domestic life; but which now, by impoverishment resulting from disastrous civil conflict, and consequent change of social customs and duties, and by the invasion of ruder manners and looser ethics, have entirely disappeared.

At that time I was a mere tyro in botany, groping among the "*andrias*" of Eaton's Manual, attracted thereto by the strange vegetation of a new and unexplored country that met my view on

all sides, and had recently entered upon a friendly and instructive correspondence with Dr. Torrey, which was continued until his death.

And here I may remark, parenthetically, that judging from a list of plants, still preserved, that I had sent to him, one might fancy that the distinguishing characters of genera and species, notably of *Carex* and *Scleria*, were not then quite so clearly defined as they are now. Indeed, the student of to-day, with a royal road before him, and all inequalities removed, can not appreciate the difficulties encountered by a lone botanist in the wilds of Florida fifty years ago.

Mr. Croom was then on one of his annual journeys from New Berne, North Carolina, the residence of the family, to his plantation in the adjoining county of Leon; but previously to settling permanently in that county, he had rented a plantation on the west bank of the Apalachicola river opposite the calcareous cliffs at Aspalaga on the east bank, which at that time were covered by a dense grove of *Torreya*, and it was here, probably in 1833, that he first saw it.

Recognizing it as likely to be new, at least to our Flora, he sent a flowerless branch to Mr. Nuttall, who briefly noticed it in the *Journal of the Philadelphia Academy*, Vol. VII, p. 96, with the suggestion that it might be the *Taxus montana*, of Mexico.

At the time of our first meeting in 1835 it appears that he had made the acquaintance of Dr. Torrey in New York, and had supplied him with specimens in flower and fruit; and it was during the previous summer, and at the latter's request for additional information and material, that my connection with the tree commenced.

His first impressions were, I believe, that it might be a species of *Podocarpus*, but these, after a minute analysis of all its parts, he soon abandoned, and came to the conclusion that it constituted the type of a new genus among the Taxoid Conifers, a conclusion also entertained by his friend and correspondent, Dr. Arnott, of Edinburgh, to whom he had communicated specimens together with a report of his analyses, and the latter, after disposing of the *Torreya* of Sprengel, which was proved to be a species of *Clerodendron*, and ignoring sundry lesser *Torreyas*, transferred the name to the Florida tree, and published a full description and figure of it in *Annals of Natural History*, Vol. I, p. 126, under the name of *Torreya taxifolia*.

Since then, other species, from widely distant regions, have been added to the genus, which, like the Florida tree, appear to

be confined to restricted localities. Ours occupies a narrow strip of land extending along the east bank of the Apalachicola river, from Chattahooche on the north, to Alum Bluff on the south, a distance of about twenty miles, and forming a continuous forest, but in detached and often widely separated clumps or groves, generally mingled with, or overshadowed by, magnolias, oaks and other native trees. There are, also, a few trees at the southern extremity of Cypress Lake, three miles west of the river. It is a wild, hilly region, abounding in rocky cliffs and deep sandy ravines ("spring-heads,") and unlike in scenery and vegetation any other part of the low country known to me. To these cliffs, and to the precipitous sides of these ravines, the tree appears to be exclusively confined; for it is never seen in the low ground along the river, nor on the elevated plateau east of it, nor, indeed, on level ground anywhere. Hence, although the suggestion may appear a startling one, were the trees of the whole region growing side by side in one body, I estimate that an area of a few hundred acres would suffice to contain all of them.

It is seldom more than forty feet high, and eighteen inches in diameter, and of a brighter green than is exhibited by most trees of the order. Its branches are in whorls, and spread horizontally, gradually diminishing in length upwards, in the manner of the northern hemlock. It is called *Savin*, or *Stinking Cedar* (the latter on account of its strong and disagreeable terebinthine odor when bruised), names also applied, I believe, to the Florida Yew (*Taxus Floridana*), a rarer tree, which is sometimes seen growing with it.

In unskillful hands it seldom survives removal, and therefore is rarely seen as a shade-tree around dwellings, or as an ornamental tree on lawns, and the only successful attempts in this regard that occur to me were made by the late Judge Dupont in Quincy, and by Mr. Croom in the grounds of the Capitol at Tallahassee, where, I am informed, two or three of the trees still survive.

But its chief value is due to the remarkable durability of its wood when exposed to the vicissitudes of climate; for it is credibly reported that some fences constructed of it sixty years ago still remain in sound condition. In consequence of this peculiarity it is now extensively employed by the inhabitants of the surrounding country for posts, shingles, and other exposed constructions. In view of these facts, the future of our *Torreya* is a matter calculated to excite very grave apprehensions. A tree possessed of such valuable qualities, occupying an area so limited in extent, and in the midst of a population where the old rule of

"Let him take who has the power,
And let him keep who can"—

has unlimited sway, is destined, it is to be feared, to ultimate extinction.

Let us indulge the hope that the interest which is beginning to be manifested in regard to the preservation of our forests generally, may result in measures statutory or otherwise for its preservation.

SELECTIONS FROM THE BOTANY OF THE REGION OF THE TORREYA.

Plants peculiar to the Region.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Calamintha dentata. | Taxus Floridana. |
| Carex Baltzellii. | Torreya taxifolia. |

Plants not seen by me elsewhere South of the Mountains of Georgia.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Aristolochia tomentosa. | Spiræa opulifolia. |
| Cornus alternifolia. | Thalictrum anemonoides. |
| Dentaria laciniata. | Trautvetteria palmata. |
| Calycocarpum Lyoni. | Viola Muhlenbergii, var. |
| Zanthorhiza apiifolia. | |

Plants not seen by me elsewhere in Florida.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Actinomeris squarrosa. | Gonolobus Baldwinianus. |
| Archangelica hirsuta | Hepatica triloba. |
| Bumelia lycioides. | Hypericum nudiflorum. |
| Carex rosea. | galioides, var. |
| Cherokeensis | Lupinus perennis, var. |
| Halei. | Luzula campestris. |
| gynandra. | Magnolia macrophylla. |
| Clematis Viorna. | Philadelphus grandiflorus. |
| Croomia pauciflora. | Phryma leptostachya. |
| Cynoglossum Virginicum. | Polygala Boykinii. |
| Epigæa repens. | Rudbeckia laciniata. |
| Euonymus atropurpureus. | Sabbatia gentianoides. |
| Eupatorium ageratoides. | Silene Baldwinii. |
| Forrestiera acuminata. | Zornia tetraphylla. |

EXPLANATION OF MAP.—The localities occupied by *Torreya* are indicated by heavy shading, chiefly along the bluffs.

Notes on Naiadaceæ.

BY THOMAS MORONG.

POTAMOGETON PAUCIFLORUS, Pursh, var. CALIFORNICUS.—A vigorous growth, with stems 12 to 18 inches high, flattened or a little winged, half a line broad below: leaves 1 or 2 inches long, nearly a line wide, 3 to 5-nerved, the midrib thick and prominent as in *P. obtusifolius*: peduncles erect, thick, clavate: spike containing sometimes as many as 12 roundish fruits, which are crested or undulate and frequently shouldered on the back, commonly angled on the face, varying from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 line in length.